

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1, with the following paragraph:

Referring to FIG. 9, it is shown that the reproducibility and uniformity for a given permeability value are obtained when a temperature variation of less than one or two degrees is maintained. Special loading configurations have been developed for the annealing process so that the uniformity and reproducibility of the temperature in the oven are established. For a box type inert gas oven, wire mesh A1 plates 72 are stacked according to FIG. 9 and the arrangement is placed in the center of the oven. The A1 plates 72 are substrates that hold the ~~non-gapped~~ cores 71 during the anneal process.